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SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at Swiss House on Wednesday, 18th February, was honoured by the presence of Mr. F. Adams, Swiss Consul, and Mr. J. R. Gaechter, Secretary of the Embassy.

With deep regret, the Chairman, Mr. A. Jaccard, reported the death of Mr. Charles Chapuis, Hon. Member, who had joined the Society in 1909 and who had for many years been a member of the Advisory Board, and Employment Department.

The accounts for the period under review, as circulated among the members, showed a satisfactory state of the Society's finances and were duly approved.

In the preamble of his report on the Society's activities, the Chairman reviewed the economic situation and in particular the fiscal measures imposed during the past year and their effects on the country's trading position, which, in one form or another, closely affect the great majority of our members.

The Chairman went on to give details of membership, meetings, etc. and highlighted the outstanding events of 1969. He expressed thanks to all who had contributed towards another successful year, mentioning in particular the constant support and encouragement received from the Swiss Ambassador in London and his staff as well as the Central Secretariat of the SKV and the Employment Department in Zurich.

He gratefully acknowledged the financial assistance received annually from the Swiss Government as well as the subscribing firms and individual donors. Last but not least, he expressed his appreciation of the loyal services rendered by the members of the Council, the Committees and the Society in general.

College. — In the absence abroad of the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, the Secretary, read the report on the College for the past year, of which the following is a summary:

Due to the introduction of the language laboratory in January the number of class rooms

was reduced from 15 to 14 and the admission of students limited accordingly. Despite an increase in the school fees from the beginning of the summer term, necessitated by the ever-increasing overheads, the waiting list had continued to grow apace and many applicants, unable or unwilling to postpone their entry, were obliged to enrol elsewhere.

The total number of students admitted was 660, with an average attendance of 271 for the year, compared with 693 and 285 respectively during the preceding year.

Despite a lower attendance, there was a welcome increase in the number of students who sat for the diploma examinations in 1969. Out of 457 candidates, 441 were successful, compared with 438 and 418 respectively in 1968.

The external examinations of Cambridge University proved as popular as ever. The number of candidates entered by the College for the Lower Certificate and the Certificate of Proficiency in English totalled 262 and 59 respectively. The results of these examinations were again very satisfactory and at the June examination, a first class certificate for the C.P.E. was awarded to a student of the College. This was the first time an SMS student had gained this distinction, the merits of which can best be gauged from the fact that less than one half of one per cent of such passes are awarded.

Due to fewer teachers being available, a smaller number of evening classes were held during the year. This resulted in a corresponding fall in the enrolments, the relative figures being 42 and 783 respectively, as against 49 and 910 in 1968.

The installation of the language laboratory has been fully justified by the use being made of it. It is helping the teachers in dealing with the students' individual linguistic difficulties and has assisted in raising the standard of English, particularly in the spoken language. As an aid to learning, it is proving invaluable and it is envisaged to extend the scope of this innovation at the College.

Full-day excursions were again arranged

periodically to enable students to visit places of cultural, historic and general interest under the guidance of teachers. Apart from these, class visits were made to some of the City's famous Exchanges as well as to undertakings of commercial interest, where the numbers admitted to conducted tours are, of necessity, strictly limited. In addition to these, there were the customary Saturday morning outings to places of interest in and around London.

The traditional Thursday afternoon lectures on a variety of subjects by teachers of the College and outside lecturers were again a feature of the curriculum. Many of these lectures were illustrated with film and slide shows for which the Society's projectors proved their usefulness.

With an intensive programme of studies, a certain amount of relaxation is necessary. This was provided at social evenings with film shows and musical concerts, community singing and play acting, in which both students and teachers took part. Students' dances and theatre parties to West End plays and shows were again well supported and proved popular.

The College football team, which plays in the West End (London) A.F.A. Intermediate League, has had a most successful run this season, having won 9 and drawn 2 of the matches played so far, with 41 goals for and 11 against, and is now second in the league table with 20 points.

Regular bookings for tennis courts in Regent's Park for Thursday afternoons were made and for the first time play is continuing with a nucleus of students throughout the winter months. It is hoped further to extend the scope from the spring onwards. The arrangements were again in the enthusiastic care of Mr. R. P. Symes, one of the teachers, who devotes a great deal of his leisure hours to organising tennis, theatre outings, rambles etc., for which the College is indebted to him.

The "SMS Student", a magazine which is published twice a term, continues to form a valuable link between the College and the students, past and present. Apart from general Col-

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lege news and events, the magazine contains a fine editorial from the pen of Mr. G. Tier, Dr. Phil., and contributions on a variety of topics from teachers and students. Thanks are due to Dr. Tier for maintaining the interest in and the high standard of this periodical.

By arrangement with the **Schweizerische Kaufmannische Stellenvermittlung**, the SMS continues to assist students in finding commercial employment in England on completion of their studies. As a result of this service, 46 young people were able to obtain employment with a variety of firms during last year.

At the end of 1969, the staff was composed of 15 full-time teachers, all of British national-

cient manner in which he was continuing to conduct the Society's affairs. He further complimented Mr. F. O. Hausermann, Chairman of the Education Committee, on the excellent running of the College.

Having been re-elected with acclamation for the ensuing term of office, Mr. Jaccard then resumed the Chair. He was pleased to announce that with the exception of Mrs. M. Meier, who was relinquishing her membership of the General Purposes and Housing Committee due to other heavy commitments and whom he thanked for her long and valued services, all the members of the Council had stated their willingness to continue in office. There being no further nominations, they were declared duly elected as follows:

Council: Chairman: Mr. A. Jaccard; Trustees: Messrs. R. Chappuis, O. Grob, H. Knoll, F. G. Sommer; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, J. F. Carlen, F. O. Hausermann, E. M. Huber, J. E. Schneider, R. Senn, F. Streit.

General Purposes and House Committee: President: Mr. A. Jaccard; Vice-President: Mr. F. O. Hausermann; Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. E. Schneider; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Senn; Members: Messrs. H. Andrea, W. Schleder, F. Vaterlaus, J. Weibel, E. Zwicky.

Education Committee: Chairman: Mr. F. O. Hausermann; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. F. Carlen; Members: Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, F. Burri, G. Hediger, O. Luterbacher, M. Schneebeli, L. A. Simon.

Press Reporter: Mr. W. Burren; Delegate to the N.S.H.: Mr. L. S. R. Asch.

As special business, the meeting passed an ordinary resolution, appointing Mr. Raymond Chappuis and Mr. Oscar Grob, both Hon. Members and past Presidents, as Trustees of the Society, having been duly nominated by the Council.

They were replacing Mr. J. J. Boos and Mr. L. W. Krucker, whose loss through death the Society mourned last year and to whose sterling services tribute has already been paid in an earlier report.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to the newly elected Trustees for their willingness to serve in that capacity and the proceedings then terminated.

W.B.

ALFRED MARTIN ✠

We have the deep regret of announcing the death of Alfred Martin, who was vice-president of the Secours Mutuels for 30 years. He came to England in 1915 and worked at the Banca Commerciale Italiana. Only last September, I reported his golden wedding here and ended my report by wishing him and Mrs. Martin a happy diamond wedding. This was not to be. Mr. Martin tripped on a cable linking two vehicles and broke his nose last Autumn. He never quite recovered from the shock and the subsequent operation and had to be brought to hospital two months ago. I got to know him through the Swiss Observer and, in the short time that we were to know each other, we have managed to become real friends. I take this opportunity of conveying to Mrs. Martin my most sincere sympathy.

(PMB)

THE SWISS FORUM

May we remind our readers that the raising of funds for the Swiss Forum is in full swing. £35,000 is still needed! However long this sum will take to be collected, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please send your donations to the Swiss Embassy and make your cheques payable to the "Swiss Embassy, Foreign Account".

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ity. Thanks were expressed to them, as well as to the secretarial staff, for their valued services and devotion.

Elections. — Mr. O. Grob was appointed temporary Chairman to elect the members of the Council and the Committees.

He expressed thanks to all concerned for having completed another successful year of office and singled out for special mention Mr. A. Jaccard, President of the Society and Chairman of the Council, for his untiring and effi-

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